



Tips for Starting a Fatherhood/Male Involvement Program

- The idea is to create programs that benefit both men and women, therefore eliminating the idea that there has to be competition between men's and women's services. Careful monitoring must be integrated into programs to make sure that an increase in attention to men's needs does not come at the expense of women's needs.
- Find ways to be flexible and creative to meet their needs while staying within the parameters of funding expectations and your organization's mission.

Source: Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, October, 2001

- Programs should take advantage of collaborations with other community agencies, but must be knowledgeable about eligibility restrictions imposed by other programs and funding sources.
- It is important to customize and personalize services provided to participants by outside agencies to ensure that they receive adequate attention and appropriate treatments.
- Peer support and case management help to cultivate the sense of concern and dignity that participants appreciate experiencing.
- There is no single formula for recruitment and retention: many strategies need to be used to attract various father/male populations. Recruiting program participants takes a lot of energy, time, and initiative.
- It is important to have dedicated and energetic staff who know about community services and are good at identifying resources.

Source: Office of Child Support Enforcement, 1997

- It is important to do an assessment of your program - how males currently participate in the service areas, program management, the attitudes of staff, your program's father- user friendliness, what you know about your fathers in the program and community, and what are the community resources.
- It is important to examine fatherhood program outcomes (Ex. Number of father participants, types of activities offered, and perceptions fathers have of the Head Start Program).
- Provide ongoing training and support services for staff.

Source: Dr. Wade F. Horn, Assistant Secretary for ACF, 2004

“Male Involvement is not one thing; it is the accumulated and ongoing set of behaviors or actions that taking together reflects the tone or feeling of your program and it's relationship to men.”
Dr. James Levine

Visit the Region III Fatherhood Website at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/region3/program_info/fatherhood.html